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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

INSIDE
TRACKS

The Newsletter of Region One

Volume 9, No. 4

Fall 1999

FWP Supervisor Receives Governor's Award

Region One Supervisor Dan Vincent has received the prestigious Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance. Vincent received the award for his innovative, even-handed management of FWP affairs in northwest Montana.

Vincent was praised for a number of accomplishments during his 9-year management of the Region, including his team approach and open-door policy of involving the public in natural resource decisions. Through Vincent's



FWP SUPERVISOR
Dan Vincent has piloted Region One through a variety of challenging natural resource issues.

leadership the Region has benefitted from a comprehensive Citizen Advisory Council, regional newsletter, citi-

zen-based water watch program, and productive relationships with the Con-
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Youngster Tells Story of First Buck

Elizabeth Seymour is 14 years old and is a high school freshman. She is a homeschooled student and enjoys volleyball and fishing. Her homeschooled volleyball team took the Junior Varsity State Championship last year. Elizabeth has worked closely with Charlie Stafford and his two sons, Steven and David, as a Junior Hunter Education Instructor.

Elizabeth's Story...

The wet socks felt like they were glued to my feet, but I managed to get them off and place them over the dashboard heater.

I was cold, tired, and feeling a bit down from getting up at 3:30 and hunting all morning.

Dad and I hunted about a mile past a gated road on a ridge near several clearcuts. I guess I must have been noisy because Dad reminded me many times not to drag my feet. Dad rattled the large mule deer antlers at about five different places, but we didn't get any response. With little fresh deer sign, it began to get discouraging.

So we ended up back at the truck having an early lunch, and I was trying to get my feet warm. Unfortunately, Mom had forgotten to buy mink oil to waterproof my boots. Needless to say, my feet were freezing from the wet snow.

After lunch, Dad asked me, "Do you want to go home, or continue hunting?" At first, I said, "I don't know." Then Dad said, "After your socks dry, we can put paper towels in your shoes to help them dry out. Remember Liz, if you go home now, you're going to feel defeated and depressed. I think you'll feel good if you at least try again. So,

would you like to keep hunting or go home?"

I thought about it for a second and said, "Okay, we'll try it again."

We finished our sandwiches, and Dad drove to a place near the area where he had shot his buck two days before.

As we walked past the gate, and down the road, we saw another hunter's tracks going in, but not coming out. Dad asked me, "Do you want to keep walking down the road, or hike up this little hill to that small clearcut?"

At first, I said, "Let's keep walk-
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FIRST BUCK. *Elizabeth Seymour proudly shows off the result of her hunting effort.*

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PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



FWP Supervisor Receives Governor's Award

(Cont. from Page 1)

federated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Vincent is known by his colleagues

Other Employee News

Over the past year, a number of existing or new employees have filled the slots of those who have transferred elsewhere:

Lee Anderson: Lee is now the warden in the Whitefish District, replacing Floyd Thomas who retired last year.

Dan Atkinson: Dan works on the Hunter Education Program.

Noemí Barta: Noemí was promoted to Office Manager for the FWP headquarters. She has worked for the region in other positions for a number of years.



BYE BYE, HARVEY

Harvey Nyberg has accepted the Region 5 (Billings) Supervisor position effective this December. Harvey worked for more than a decade for the wildlife resources in Region One, the last 5 years as Wildlife Manager. Harvey is a tireless advocate for northwest Montana wildlife and will be missed. Good Luck, Harvey!

as a fair and open-minded leader who loves to fish and hunt, especially with his daughters and sons.

Debbie Broderick

Debbie works at the headquarters front desk.

John Cloninger: John works on the Hooked on Fishing program.

Grant Grisak: Grant is the Hungry Horse Fisheries Mitigation Biologist.

Nancy Ivy: Nancy works in the wildlife division on Environmental Assessments and other tasks.

Dave Landstrom: Dave is the Parks Operations Supervisor for the region.

Clint Muhlfeld: Clint works on the Flathead River as a Native Fish Biologist.

Wade Symons: Wade works with the mitigation fish hatchery project.

Youngster Tells Story of First Buck

(Cont. from Page 1)

ing." But Dad replied, "Well, it looks like there's been another hunter here, so why don't we go up the hill and try to rattle?"

I agreed that was a better plan. Of course, Dad reminded me over and over again to slow down and not to drag my feet as we walked. When we got to the clearcut, we sat down at the foot of a tree. I sat facing straight-ahead into the opening. Dad was sitting to my right against the tree.

After a little while, Dad started to rattle. Nothing happened. Then, after the second time, he suddenly said, "Liz, there's a buck!"

"Where?" I asked. "To your right!" Dad whispered back. "To your right! To the right of that big tree! LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT! HE'S STRAIGHT IN

FWP, Plum Creek Renew Access Agreement

FWP and Plum Creek Timber, Inc., have signed a 5-year extension of a block management agreement that ensures public access to nearly 800,000 acres of Plum Creek Lands in northwest Montana.

The agreement has worked very well, says FWP's Frank Bowen. Bowen says that in exchange for allowing public access for hunting and other uses, Plum Creek receives increased FWP warden patrols on their lands. These patrols guard against violations of hunting and fishing regulations, and violations of Plum Creek's land use rules (see next page).

Plum Creek's Art Vail notes that the public has cooperated well, leading the company to extend the agreement.

The agreement extension is very good news for northwest Montana hunters. Some hunting districts west of Kalispell are made up mostly of Plum Creek lands. Hunters and other recreationists are urged to continue being good neighbors and visitors on Plum Creek lands.

FRONT OF YOU NOW!

I had been looking all over the place, and I finally saw him about 70 yards away. He was a big buck!

I aimed and fired. I saw him go down! Dad and I both jumped up and started to walk toward him.

Dad told me to put another round in the 30-30 just in case, but when we found the buck, he was down for good! I had bagged a beautiful 5 by 5 whitetail! I had never seen Dad so excited before!

I had prayed that morning that I would be able to get a deer, and God had answered my prayers. Even though I was cold and discouraged, I learned to persevere.

Dad told me later, "You made a great shot Liz! Good job!" I was the happiest hunter in Montana!



NEARLY 800,000 ACRES of Plum Creek Lands are open to public access thanks to a Block Management Agreement. This agreement, a cooperative effort between FWP and Plum Creek Timber, Inc., has been extended for an additional five years.



The Flathead Unit

Open Lands Policy

1/29/98

Plum Creek welcomes the responsible use of our lands by the public for noncommercial recreation such as hunting, fishing, and camping. The following guidelines and rules will help clarify what we consider to be responsible public use.

Road Restrictions

Plum Creek sometimes restricts the type of vehicular access permitted on our lands for a variety of reasons. The following is a description of the rules associated with Plum Creek's general road management plan for the Flathead Unit.

- Plum Creek restricts road use with gates, barricades, and earthen barriers, or in some cases with only a sign. This may be a unilateral restriction on a Plum Creek-owned road or a cooperative restriction on a road that is cooperatively owned, such as a road cost-shared with the Forest Service.
- A cooperative road management sign defines the intended restriction
 - Seasonal versus yearlong
 - What kind of vehicular traffic is restricted
- On roads not identified as open on the current Forest Service travel plan map, a gate without a sign is a year round closure to all motorized vehicles whether the gate is open or closed.
 - Road restrictions apply behind an unmarked gate, even if vandalized.
 - An open road behind a gate must be specifically designated as such by a sign,
- An unsigned earthen barrier is considered a closure to all motorized vehicles, except for snowmobiles between December 1 and April 1.
- Administrative and commercial use is authorized behind a closed gate
 - Landowner employees working behind the gate
 - Logging or forestry contractors
- Hunting or transportation of hunters or game with administrative or commercial vehicles is prohibited.

Camping

- Camping on Plum Creek land is allowed, but is limited to seven days, with the following common sense rules:
 - Pack out all of your garbage and leave a clean area.
 - Be careful with fire.
 - Do not cut any trees.
 - Avoid polluting with human waste. Toilets within 300 feet of a lake shore or stream must be self-contained.

Other

- Commercial activity on Plum Creek land is not allowed without a permit
- Firewood cutting is permitted only with the purchase of a Plum Creek wood cutting permit and is governed by the rules shown on the permit.
- The privilege to recreate on Plum Creek land does not include the right to trespass on other private property to reach Plum Creek land.
- It is your responsibility to know whose property you are using. Color coded maps which show Plum Creek land are available to purchase from the Forest Service, and at the Flathead Unit of Plum Creek.
- Please report violations or vandalism.

Sorensen Continues Wildlife Efforts

Wildlife Rehabilitator Beth Sorensen has cared for and returned hundreds of animals to the wild. Last year, she hosted more than 30 bear cubs at her facility near Kalispell. These cubs were all returned to the wild by FWP.

Over the summer, Sorensen cared for about a dozen orphaned deer fawns; these deer did well and have now been returned to the wild. Wildlife viewers and hunters owe Beth a big "thank you" for her fine efforts.

Much of Sorensen's work, which also includes nongame and birds of prey, has been on a volunteer basis. The public has aided her operation through contributions of dollars, work, and supplies. Over the last year, FWP has been able to provide funding for the care of bears and deer.

Sorensen, a certified physician's

assistant, stresses that her goal is to return all animals to the wild. **She urges the public not to pick up animals that appear to be orphaned.** Rather, she says, call FWP

or her before disturbing the animal.

Beth has received a number of awards for her service in northwestern Montana.

Thanks, Beth! 



HUNTERS' REMINDER: By Montana Law, Permission is now required for all hunting on Private Land



For more information on Fish, Wildlife & Parks issues, listen to:

"Northwest Outdoors,"

FWP's weekly radio show, Thursdays at 8:35 a.m.
on KGEZ, 600 AM.

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**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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Harvey Nyberg, Wildlife Manager
Jim Vashro, Fisheries Manager
Marty Watkins, Parks Manager
Ed Kelly, Warden Captain
Noemí Barta, Office Manager
Brian Marotz, Fisheries Mitigation Coordinator
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